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LOUISIANA LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

BATON ROUGE
P.O. Box 94094

Phyllis C. Mouton, Secretary
DECEMBER, 1988

RELEASE DATE:
January 25, 1989

LOUISIANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY

(In thousands)	PRELIMINARY DECEMBER 1988 Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	REVISED NOVEMBER 1988 Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	REVISED DECEMBER 1987 Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate
LOUISIANA	1,922.6	1,730.2	192.4	10.0	1,930.6	1,744.2	186.4	9.7	1,922.4	1,740.1	182.3	9.5
LABOR MARKET AREAS:												
Alexandria 1/	61.3	55.5	5.8	9.5	61.7	56.1	5.6	9.0	61.5	56.5	5.0	8.1
Baton Rouge 2/	264.8	241.2	23.6	8.9	266.2	242.6	23.6	8.9	264.6	243.2	21.4	8.1
Houma - Thibodaux 3/	69.6	62.8	6.8	9.8	69.6	63.3	6.3	9.0	70.6	62.9	7.7	10.9
Lafayette 4/	98.5	89.9	8.6	8.7	99.3	90.5	8.8	8.8	99.0	90.0	9.0	9.1
Lake Charles 5/	74.5	66.8	7.7	10.4	74.5	66.9	7.6	10.2	73.2	67.3	7.9	10.5
Monroe 6/	68.8	62.3	6.5	9.5	69.1	62.7	6.4	9.2	69.9	64.1	5.8	8.3
New Orleans 7/	599.0	546.9	52.1	8.7	602.3	550.2	52.1	8.7	596.0	547.5	48.5	8.1
Shreveport 8/	181.9	165.8	16.1	10.0	163.8	148.4	15.4	9.4	166.0	150.8	15.2	9.1

Parishes included in above Labor Market Areas are listed at the end of the Employment and Payroll Trends narrative.

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in Louisiana was estimated at 1,516,800 for December, an increase of 800 from the November revised level and 12,500 above the December 1987 figure. Seasonal gains in trade employment were largely responsible for the increase in nonmanufacturing. Manufacturing employment was higher for the current month as a result of an upturn in durable goods.

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Employment in the durable goods segment of manufacturing, estimated at 74,800 for December, was 400 higher than the November figure and 2,400 higher than the year-ago figure. Transportation equipment payrolls were up primarily as a result of more business for the ship and boat building and repairing firms.

Estimated employment in the nondurable goods segment of manufacturing for December amounted to 97,000, a decrease of 200 from last month's level but an increase of 1,600 above December 1987. This month's decrease of nondurable goods employment was a seasonal downturn in food and kindred products due to decreased activity in vegetable canning.

Nonmanufacturing employment for December, at 1,345,000, was up by 600 over November's level. Decreased activity in the production of crude petroleum and natural gas was responsible for the lower employment level in mining. Employment in construction was down as a result of less business throughout most of the construction industry. Transportation and public utilities experienced an increase in employment due to more business at the state's ports. Trade employment rose due to seasonal hiring by retail establishments. An increase in banking was instrumental in the higher level of employment in finance, insurance and real estate. Miscellaneous amusement and recreation services were among the segments contributing to the downward movement of services employment in December. Government employment was higher as a result of an increase in federal government, except defense, payrolls.

Average weekly earnings of Louisiana's 125,700 production workers in manufacturing decreased from $476.06 in November to $461.67 in December, a decrease of $14.39, but an increase of $1.36 over the year-ago figure. Average hourly earnings were eight cents lower in December than last month and $0.16 higher than the December 1987 figure. Weekly hours averaged 42.2 for the current month, down 1.0 hours from the November revised level of 43.2 hours.

Estimated total unemployment for Louisiana during December amounted to 192,400, an increase of 6,000 above the November revised level of 186,400. The unemployment rate for December was 10.0 percent, compared to 9.7 percent for November and 9.5 percent for December 1987. The comparable national unemployment rate for December was 5.0 percent, compared to 5.2 percent in November and 5.4 percent for December of last year. The state's civilian labor force decreased from 1,930,600 in November to 1,922,600 in December, a loss of 8,000. Total employment, estimated at 1,730,200 for the current month, was down by 14,000 from last month's revised figure and 9,900 below December of last year.

Louisiana's unemployment rate is expected to increase over the next 30 days. Retail trade will adjust downward as a result of the close of the holiday season. Manufacturing employment may decrease in the upcoming months.

1/ Rapides Parish only. 2/ Includes Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Livingston, and West Baton Rouge parishes. 3/ Includes Lafourche and Terrebonne parishes. 4/ Includes Lafayette and St. Martin parishes. 5/ Calcasieu Parish only. 6/ Ouachita Parish only. 7/ Includes Jefferson, Orleans, St. Bernard, St. Tammany , St. Charles and St. John the Baptist parishes. 8/ Includes Bossier and Caddo parishes.

LOUISIANA
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Dec. 1988*	Nov. 1988**	Dec. 1987**	Net Change from Nov. 1988	Net Change from Dec. 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	1,516.8	1,516.0	1,504.3	+ 0.8	+12.5
MINING	54.1	54.4	55.3	- 0.3	- 1.2
Oil and Gas Extraction	51.4	51.7	52.6	- 0.3	- 1.2
Nonmetallic Minerals	2.7	2.7	2.7	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	80.2	81.9	80.4	- 1.7	- 0.2
MANUFACTURING	171.8	171.6	167.8	+ 0.2	+ 4.0
Durable Goods	74.8	74.4	72.4	+ 0.4	+ 2.4
Lumber and Wood Products	12.0	11.9	12.2	+ 0.1	- 0.2
Furniture and Fixtures	0.6	0.6	0.7	0	- 0.1
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	5.6	5.6	5.5	0	+ 0.1
Primary Metal Industries	3.3	3.3	2.9	0	+ 0.4
Fabricated Metal Products	11.7	11.9	11.0	- 0.2	+ 0.7
Machinery, Except Electrical	9.2	9.1	8.6	+ 0.1	+ 0.6
Electrical & Electronic Equipment	6.4	6.4	7.2	0	- 0.8
Transportation Equipment	23.3	22.9	21.8	+ 0.4	+ 1.5
Other Durable Goods (1)	2.7	2.7	2.5	0	+ 0.2
Nondurable Goods	97.0	97.2	95.4	- 0.2	+ 1.6
Food & Kindred Products	21.6	21.8	21.1	- 0.2	+ 0.5
Apparel & Other Textile Products	9.5	9.6	9.4	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Paper & Allied Products	12.4	12.3	12.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.4
Printing & Publishing	10.3	10.3	10.2	0	+ 0.1
Chemicals & Allied Products	26.2	26.1	25.4	+ 0.1	+ 0.8
Petroleum and Coal Products	12.3	12.4	12.4	- 0.1	- 0.1
Petroleum Refining	11.4	11.4	11.4	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods (2)	4.7	4.7	4.9	0	- 0.2
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	106.0	105.7	103.6	+ 0.3	+ 2.4
Railroad Transportation	5.2	5.2	5.2	0	0
Transportation, ex. Railroads	60.8	60.3	58.4	+ 0.5	+ 2.4
Water Transportation	23.5	23.0	22.1	+ 0.5	+ 1.4
Communication & Electric, Gas & Sanitary Ser.	40.0	40.2	40.0	- 0.2	0
Communication, Exc. U S Postal Service	18.1	18.2	17.9	- 0.1	+ 0.2
Electric, Gas & Sanitary Services	21.9	22.0	22.1	- 0.1	- 0.2
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	374.7	371.6	371.7	+ 3.1	+ 3.0
Wholesale Trade	83.8	83.8	82.9	0	+ 0.9
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	46.3	46.4	45.6	- 0.1	+ 0.7
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	37.5	37.4	37.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Retail Trade	290.9	287.8	288.8	+ 3.1	+ 2.1
Gen. Merchandise, Apparel & Acc.	65.2	62.0	63.1	+ 3.2	+ 2.1
Food Stores	57.5	57.3	57.4	+ 0.2	+ 0.1
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	31.0	31.3	30.5	- 0.3	+ 0.5
Eating & Drinking Places	85.1	85.6	84.9	- 0.5	+ 0.2
Other Retail Trade	52.1	51.6	52.9	+ 0.5	- 0.8

LOUISIANA - CONTINUED
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Dec. 1988*	Nov. 1988**	Dec. 1987**	Net Change from Nov. 1988	Net Change from Dec. 1987
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	84.3	84.0	84.5	+ 0.3	- 0.2
Banking	24.8	24.3	24.9	+ 0.5	- 0.1
SERVICES	332.4	333.9	325.8	- 1.5	+ 6.6
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	22.3	22.7	22.7	- 0.4	- 0.4
Personal Services	14.6	14.6	14.0	0	+ 0.6
Business Services	60.8	60.9	57.8	- 0.1	+ 3.0
Auto Repair, Services & Garages	9.3	9.3	9.7	0	- 0.4
Miscellaneous Repair Services	5.0	5.0	5.6	0	- 0.6
Amusement & Recreation Services	8.6	9.5	8.8	- 0.9	- 0.2
Health Services	103.6	103.8	102.4	- 0.2	+ 1.2
Legal Services	15.7	15.6	15.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.5
Educational Services	28.0	27.9	24.4	+ 0.1	+ 3.6
Social Services	18.6	18.7	19.0	- 0.1	- 0.4
Membership Organizations	24.8	25.0	25.8	- 0.2	- 1.0
Miscellaneous Services	15.0	15.0	14.5	0	+ 0.5
GOVERNMENT	313.3	312.9	315.2	+ 0.4	- 1.9
Federal	36.4	36.1	36.2	+ 0.3	+ 0.2
State and Local	276.9	276.8	279.0	+ 0.1	- 2.1
State	96.9	96.9	99.5	0	- 2.6
Local	180.0	179.9	179.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.5

* Preliminary **Revised
(1) Includes Professional equipment and misc. manufacturing industries
(2) Includes Leather, Rubber and Textile products.

All estimates of Nonagricultural wage and salaried workers in this publication are prepared in cooperation with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, with the exception of the Lake Charles LMA which is prepared under the auspices of the Louisiana Department of Labor, and include all full time and part time workers who were employed during the pay period including the 12th of the month.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING AND SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN LOUISIANA

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Dec. '88*	Nov. '88**	Dec. '87**	Dec. '88*	Nov. '88**	Dec. '87**	Dec. '88*	Nov. '88**	Dec. '87**
All MANUFACTURING (1)	$461.67	$476.06	$460.31	42.2	43.2	42.7	$10.94	$11.02	$10.78
Durable Goods	411.16	428.24	416.63	41.7	42.4	42.6	9.86	10.10	9.78
Lumber & Wood Products	362.49	359.93	358.46	43.0	42.9	44.2	8.43	8.39	8.11
Stone, Clay, & Glass Pdts.	354.63	361.40	369.33	38.8	40.2	40.9	9.14	8.99	9.03
Fabricated Metal Products	452.52	421.18	450.74	46.7	43.6	45.3	9.69	9.66	9.95
Machinery, ex. Electrical	385.28	386.98	403.20	40.9	41.3	44.9	9.42	9.37	8.98
Electric & Electronic Equip.	568.16	590.98	495.11	42.4	43.2	38.5	13.40	13.68	12.86
Transportation Equipment	415.16	477.85	444.64	38.8	42.4	41.4	10.70	11.27	10.74
Nondurable Goods	504.71	514.65	496.91	42.7	43.8	42.8	11.82	11.75	11.61
Food & Kindred Products	318.28	320.18	314.84	42.1	43.8	41.7	7.56	7.31	7.55
Apparel & Other Textile Pdts.	206.22	211.27	201.85	34.6	37.0	37.8	5.96	5.71	5.34
Paper & Allied Products	575.97	584.55	588.99	43.7	43.3	43.5	13.18	13.50	13.54
Printing & Publishing	404.04	391.65	394.11	39.0	37.3	38.6	10.36	10.50	10.21
Chemicals & Allied Pdts.	712.35	718.79	707.38	45.2	45.9	45.2	15.76	15.66	15.65
Petroleum & Coal Products	735.17	805.29	714.98	47.4	51.0	46.7	15.51	15.79	15.31
Petroleum Refining	744.98	827.09	726.03	47.3	51.5	46.6	15.75	16.06	15.58
MINING	556.89	546.55	546.62	46.1	46.2	46.6	12.08	11.83	11.73
COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC UTILITIES	506.73	511.29	517.57	38.8	39.3	39.6	13.06	13.01	13.07
BANKING	278.61	271.58	263.47	37.0	36.9	37.8	7.53	7.36	6.97

(1) Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 125,700 full and part-time workers in manufacturing and 88,600 nonsupervisory employees in communications, public utilities, mining and banking. The averages are computed on a "Gross" basis and reflect over-time, late shift work and incentive rates.

LOUISIANA EMPLOYMENT SITUATION BY LABOR MARKET AREA

	PRELIMINARY 12 88				REVISED 11 88			
	LABOR FORCE	EMPL.	UNEMP	RATE	LABOR FORCE	EMPL.	UNEMP	RATE
CROWLEY (ACADIA)	22,550	20,050	2,500	11.1	22,625	20,125	2,500	11.1
OAKDALE (ALLEN)	9,950	8,700	1,250	12.4	9,900	8,750	1,150	11.7
NAPOLEONVILLE (ASSUMPTION)	5,975	4,925	1,050	17.5	5,900	5,075	825	13.8
BUNKIE (AVOYELLES)	15,250	12,750	2,500	16.4	15,550	13,375	2,175	14.0
DERIDDER (BEAUREGARD)	14,800	13,350	1,450	9.8	15,175	13,750	1,425	9.4
ARCADIA (BIENVILLE)	6,650	5,850	800	11.9	6,600	5,925	675	10.1
COLUMBIA (CALDWELL)	4,300	3,775	525	12.4	4,300	3,775	525	12.0
CAMERON (CAMERON)	4,550	4,050	500	10.8	4,550	4,075	475	10.2
JONESVILLE (CATAHOULA)	4,000	3,225	775	19.3	3,950	3,325	625	15.9
HOMER (CLAIBORNE)	8,025	7,300	725	8.9	8,025	7,325	700	8.9
FERRIDAY (CONCORDIA)	10,050	8,550	1,500	14.9	9,850	8,550	1,300	13.2
MANSFIELD (DESOTO)	13,100	11,550	1,550	11.8	13,100	11,650	1,450	11.1
LAKE PROVIDENCE (E. CARROLL)	4,250	3,325	925	21.8	4,125	3,450	675	16.3
CLINTON (EAST FELICIANA)	8,950	8,050	900	10.1	9,100	8,200	900	10.0
VILLE PLATTE(EVANGELINE)	12,650	11,100	1,550	12.1	13,025	11,525	1,500	11.5
WINNSBORO (FRANKLIN)	8,425	7,100	1,325	15.6	8,350	7,225	1,125	13.5
COLFAX (GRANT)	6,725	5,900	825	12.4	6,750	5,950	800	11.7
NEW IBERIA (IBERIA)	24,550	21,975	2,575	10.4	24,575	22,050	2,525	10.3
PLAQUEMINE (IBERVILLE)	11,450	9,800	1,650	14.4	11,550	9,900	1,650	14.3
JONESBORO (JACKSON)	7,225	6,650	575	8.0	7,275	6,675	600	8.3
JENNINGS (JEFFERSON DAVIS)	11,825	10,275	1,550	13.1	11,900	10,250	1,650	13.8
JENA (LASALLE)	6,625	5,975	650	10.0	6,700	6,025	675	9.9
RUSTON (LINCOLN)	18,100	17,050	1,050	5.9	18,325	17,425	900	4.9
TALLULAH (MADISON)	5,700	4,775	925	16.3	5,600	4,875	725	13.0
BASTROP (MOREHOUSE)	12,625	10,900	1,725	13.7	12,425	10,900	1,525	12.2
NATCHITOCHES (NATCHITOCHES)	16,575	14,750	1,825	10.9	16,375	14,875	1,500	9.2
POINT-A-LA-HACHE (PLAQUM.)	9,000	8,075	925	10.3	9,075	8,150	925	10.2
NEW ROADS (POINTE COUPEE)	7,375	6,075	1,300	17.5	7,350	6,100	1,250	17.1
COUSHATTA (RED RIVER)	4,200	3,725	475	11.1	4,125	3,700	425	10.0
RAYVILLE (RICHLAND)	8,975	7,700	1,275	14.1	8,925	7,800	1,125	12.6
MANY (SABINE)	10,050	9,150	900	9.0	10,150	9,325	825	8.2
GREENSBURG (ST. HELENA)	2,800	2,475	325	11.8	2,800	2,475	325	11.8
LUTCHER (ST. JAMES)	8,175	6,975	1,200	14.7	8,050	7,000	1,050	13.0
OPELOUSAS (ST. LANDRY)	33,200	28,350	4,850	14.6	33,300	28,425	4,875	14.6
MORGAN CITY (ST. MARY)	23,900	20,800	3,100	13.0	23,625	20,900	2,725	11.5
HAMMOND (TANGIPAHOA)	39,150	34,025	5,125	13.1	39,125	34,175	4,950	12.7
ST. JOSEPH (TENSAS)	3,150	2,700	450	14.4	3,075	2,750	325	10.9
FARMERVILLE (UNION)	8,400	7,425	975	11.7	8,425	7,450	975	11.5
ABBEVILLE (VERMILION)	19,700	17,175	2,525	12.8	19,775	17,350	2,425	12.2
LEESVILLE (VERNON)	19,150	17,400	1,750	9.1	19,025	17,350	1,675	8.8
BOGALUSA (WASHINGTON)	18,250	16,000	2,250	12.3	18,025	16,050	1,975	10.9
MINDEN (WEBSTER)	19,200	16,825	2,375	12.3	18,975	16,750	2,225	11.7
OAK GROVE (WEST CARROLL)	4,725	3,525	1,200	25.2	4,575	3,600	975	21.4
ST. FRANCISVILLE (W. FELIC.)	4,275	3,725	550	12.6	4,325	3,875	450	10.6
WINNFIELD (WINN)	5,650	5,175	475	8.3	5,775	5,250	525	8.9

NOTE: LABOR MARKET AREAS ARE DESIGNATED BY NAME OF PRINCIPAL TOWN, BUT INCLUDE ALL OF PARISH IN PARENTHESES.

ABOVE DATA ROUNDED TO NEAREST 25 EXCEPT LMAS AND STATEWIDE WHICH ARE ROUNDED TO NEAREST 100. SUBTOTALS MAY NOT ADD TO TOTALS DUE TO ROUNDING. RATES COMPUTED FROM UNROUNDED DATA.

ALEXANDRIA AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Dec. 1988*	Nov. 1988**	Dec. 1987**	Net Change From Nov. 1988	Net Change From Dec. 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	46.3	46.3	46.2	0	+ 0.1
MANUFACTURING	3.3	3.3	3.4	0	- 0.1
Durable Goods	1.9	1.9	2.1	0	- 0.2
Lumber & Wood Products	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0
Other Durable Goods	1.5	1.5	1.7	0	- 0.2
Nondurable Goods	1.4	1.4	1.3	0	+ 0.1
Food & Kindred Products	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	0.9	0.9	0.8	0	+ 0.1
MINING	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	2.2	2.3	2.3	- 0.1	- 0.1
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	2.2	2.2	2.2	0	0
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	11.5	11.3	11.5	+ 0.2	0
Wholesale Trade	2.3	2.2	2.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	1.2	1.2	1.2	0	0
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	1.1	1.0	1.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Retail Trade	9.2	9.1	9.3	+ 0.1	- 0.1
General Merchandise	2.3	2.2	2.3	+ 0.1	0
Auto Dlrs. & Svc. Sta.	1.0	1.0	1.0	0	0
Eating & Drinking Places	2.4	2.4	2.3	0	+ 0.1
Other Retail Trade	3.5	3.5	3.7	0	- 0.2
FINANCE, INS., & REAL ESTATE	2.6	2.6	2.6	0	0
SERVICES	11.7	11.7	11.2	0	+ 0.5
Health Services	5.1	5.1	4.9	0	+ 0.2
GOVERNMENT	12.6	12.7	12.8	- 0.1	- 0.2
Federal	2.8	2.8	2.7	0	+ 0.1
State and Local	9.8	9.9	10.1	- 0.1	- 0.3
State	4.5	4.6	4.8	- 0.1	- 0.3
Local	5.3	5.3	5.3	0	0

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Alexandria LMA was estimated at 46,300 for the month of December. This estimate was unchanged from November and 100 more than December of last year.

Employment in manufacturing remained unchanged from the previous month but declined by 100 from December 1987. The decline was a net result of a decrease by 200 in durable goods with an increase of 100 in nondurable goods.

December estimated employment in nonmanufacturing was 43,000. This figure was the same as last month and 200 higher compared to the same period a year ago. Although wholesale and retail trade increased by 200 for the current month, the increase was offset by a decline of 100 in both construction and state government. The increase of 200 from December 1987 resulted from a 500 increase in services and decreases of 200 in government and 100 in construction.

During the next thirty days seasonal changes are anticipated, with employment in retail sales and outdoor related employment declining.

BATON ROUGE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Dec. 1988*	Nov. 1988**	Dec. 1987**	Net Change From Nov. 1988	Net Change From Dec. 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	216.4	216.0	214.7	+ 0.4	+ 1.7
MANUFACTURING	19.0	19.0	18.7	0	+ 0.3
Durable Goods	3.9	3.9	3.8	0	+ 0.1
Lumber and Wood Products	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	0.7	0.7	0.7	0	0
Fabricated Metal Products	1.0	1.0	1.0	0	0
Other Durable Goods	1.7	1.7	1.6	0	+ 0.1
Nondurable Goods	15.1	15.1	14.9	0	+ 0.2
Food & Kindred Products	2.0	2.0	1.9	0	+ 0.1
Printing & Publishing	1.4	1.4	1.5	0	- 0.1
Chemicals and Petroleum Products	10.3	10.3	10.3	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	1.4	1.4	1.2	0	+ 0.2
MINING	0.8	0.8	0.8	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	20.1	20.5	20.4	- 0.4	- 0.3
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILTIES	10.4	10.4	10.1	0	+ 0.3
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	53.8	53.1	52.2	+ 0.7	+ 1.6
Wholesale Trade	11.9	11.8	11.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.4
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	8.0	8.0	7.8	0	+ 0.2
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	3.9	3.8	3.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Retail Trade	41.9	41.3	40.7	+ 0.6	+ 1.2
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	13.6	13.5	13.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
Banking	3.5	3.4	3.5	+ 0.1	0
SERVICES	44.2	44.0	43.5	+ 0.2	+ 0.7
GOVERNMENT	54.5	54.7	55.7	- 0.2	- 1.2
Federal	2.2	2.2	2.3	0	- 0.1
State and Local	52.3	52.5	53.4	- 0.2	- 1.1
State	29.7	29.9	30.9	- 0.2	- 1.2
Local	22.6	22.6	22.5	0	+ 0.1

BATON ROUGE AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Dec. '88*	Nov. '88**	Dec. '87**	Dec. '88*	Nov. '88**	Dec. '87**	Dec. '88*	Nov. '88**	Dec. '87**
All MANUFACTURING (1)	$535.82	$539.09	$546.84	42.9	43.3	43.4	$12.49	$12.45	$12.60
Petro-Chemicals	716.63	708.07	717.65	45.5	45.8	46.3	15.75	15.46	15.50

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 12,800 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

BATON ROUGE AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Nonagricultural employment in the Baton Rouge LMA, at 216,400 during December, was up 400 from the revised November estimate and up 1,700 over December of last year.

Employment in manufacturing, at 19,000, showed no change during the current period and was up 300 over last December. The durable goods increase over the prior year was centered in other durable goods. In nondurable goods, food and kindred products and other nondurable goods were up, and printing and publishing showed a small decline.

Total nonmanufacturing was up 400 during the current period and up 1,400 over the year-ago total. Construction was down due to less business in general building contractors-nonresidential buildings, heavy construction except highway and street construction, and in masonry, stonework, tile setting and plastering. Wholesale trade-nondurable goods increased due to more business in groceries and related products and in beer, wine and distilled alcoholic beverages. Retail trade was up due to seasonal increases in variety stores and in men's and boy's clothing and furnishings stores. Finance, insurance and real estate increased due to more business in commercial and stock savings banks. Services rose due to increased payrolls in hospitals, residential care facilities, and museums and art galleries. Government was down due to staff reductions in state government.

Average weekly earnings of the Baton Rouge LMA's 12,800 production workers in all manufacturing was $535.82, down $3.27 from the November revised average. Average weekly hours, at 42.9, were down 0.4 hours. Average hourly earnings, at $12.49, were up four cents per hour. A shorter scheduled work week contributed to these changes.

Total employment of Baton Rouge LMA's residents was 241,200 during December, down 1,400 from the revised November estimate and up 1,600 over the year ago total. Unemployment, at 23,600, had no change during the current period and was down 5,300 from December of last year. The local unemployment rate for December, at 8.9 percent, was unchanged from the November revised rate and down from the 10.8 percent recorded for the comparable period last year. Baton Rouge's civilian labor force totaled 264,800 during December, down 1,400 from the prior month and down 3,700 from the total for last December.

The Baton Rouge Job Service Office served 2,103 individuals with new or renewal applications and placed 366 applicants in jobs during December.

The consumer price index for November, 1988 for all urban consumers was 120.3 and for all urban wage and clerical workers 119.0 using base period 1982-84 = 100.

A seasonal decline in retail trade and public education is expected to reduce employment and increase unemployment during the coming month.

HOUMA - THIBODAUX AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Dec. 1988*	Nov. 1988**	Dec. 1987**	Net Change From Nov. 1988	Net Change From Dec. 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	53.5	53.6	52.9	- 0.1	+ 0.6
MANUFACTURING	4.1	4.2	4.4	- 0.1	- 0.3
Durable Goods	2.8	2.8	2.8	0	0
Nondurable Goods	1.3	1.4	1.6	- 0.1	- 0.3
MINING	5.8	5.9	5.8	- 0.1	0
CONSTRUCTION	1.8	1.8	1.4	0	+ 0.4
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	6.0	6.2	5.6	- 0.2	+ 0.4
Water Transportation	3.7	3.9	3.3	- 0.2	+ 0.4
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	13.7	13.6	13.7	+ 0.1	0
Wholesale Trade	2.9	2.9	2.8	0	+ 0.1
Retail Trade	10.8	10.7	10.9	+ 0.1	- 0.1
Eating & Drinking Places	3.2	3.3	3.0	- 0.1	+ 0.2
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	2.1	2.1	2.3	0	- 0.2
SERVICES	9.3	9.2	8.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.5
GOVERNMENT	10.7	10.6	10.9	+ 0.1	- 0.2
Federal	0.5	0.5	0.4	0	+ 0.1
State and Local	10.2	10.1	10.5	+ 0.1	- 0.3
State	3.0	2.9	3.1	+ 0.1	- 0.1
Local	7.2	7.2	7.4	0	- 0.2

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Houma-Thibodaux LMA in December tapered off to 53,500, down 100 from November. The scattered changes were small and mostly seasonal in nature. Since December 1987, total employment showed a gain of 600.

Manufacturing employment totaled 4,100 in December, down 100 from the previous month. The durable goods segment was at the same level as the previous month. The nondurable goods segment lost 100 mainly due to the end of the sugarcane processing season.

Mining eased down as weather became less suitable for outside activity. Construction held steady. Water transportation decreased, reflecting the slackened seasonal demand from mining. More favorably, retail trade pushed up as shopping for the holiday season neared its peak. Finance, insurance, and real estate exhibited no significant change. Services were boosted by a seasonal upturn in business services. State government displayed a gain in state educational services.

Estimated unemployment in December moved up to 6,800 a level 500 above November. Unemployment presently comprises 9.8 percent of the labor force, compared to 9.0 percent in November and 10.9 percent in December of last year. Recipients of regular unemployment insurance benefits totaled 1,020.

Nonagricultural employment in the coming months is expected to display normal seasonal changes. Retail trade will adjust downward from the December level as the holiday season passes. Mining and construction will be hampered by winter weather conditions. Unemployment is predicted to show some increase.

LAFAYETTE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Dec. 1988*	Nov. 1988**	Dec. 1987**	Net Change From Nov. 1988	Net Change From Dec. 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	84.3	84.7	83.0	- 0.4	+ 1.3
MANUFACTURING	6.1	6.1	6.1	0	0
Durable Goods	1.4	1.4	1.4	0	0
Nondurable Goods	4.7	4.7	4.7	0	0
Food & Kindred Products	1.8	1.8	1.7	0	+ 0.1
MINING	10.7	10.9	10.5	- 0.2	+ 0.2
CONSTRUCTION	3.2	3.6	3.2	- 0.4	0
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	6.1	5.9	5.6	+ 0.2	+ 0.5
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	23.8	23.6	22.4	+ 0.2	+ 1.4
Wholesale Trade	5.3	5.4	5.1	- 0.1	+ 0.2
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	3.1	3.2	3.0	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	2.2	2.2	2.1	0	+ 0.1
Retail Trade	18.5	18.2	17.3	+ 0.3	+ 1.2
General Merchandise	3.2	3.1	2.9	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
Food Stores	2.9	2.9	2.8	0	+ 0.1
Auto. Dlrs. & Serv. Sta.	1.8	1.8	1.7	0	+ 0.1
Other Retail Trade	10.6	10.4	9.9	+ 0.2	+ 0.7
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	3.4	3.5	3.8	- 0.1	- 0.4
Banking	1.0	1.0	1.2	0	- 0.2
SERVICES	18.1	18.2	18.3	- 0.1	- 0.2
GOVERNMENT	12.9	12.9	13.1	0	- 0.2
Federal	0.8	0.8	0.9	0	- 0.1
State and Local	12.1	12.1	12.2	0	- 0.1
State	5.1	5.1	5.3	0	- 0.2
Local	7.0	7.0	6.9	0	+ 0.1

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Lafayette LMA was estimated at 84,300, a decrease of 400 workers from the November revised level. Compared to a year ago, employment in the LMA has increased by 1,300.

Mining decreased by 200 due to continued layoffs in the industry. Construction made a seasonal downturn in employment by 400 in December. Transportation and public utilities rose by 200 workers from the previous month. Wholesale and retail trade increased by 200 due to seasonal employment; compared to December 1987, employment in this sector increased by 1,400 workers. Finance, insurance, and real estate and services showed a minimal decline of 100 in each sector from the previous month.

All other sectors showed no change from the previous month.

Unemployment should remain close to current levels for the next thirty days.

LAKE CHARLES AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Dec. 1988*	Nov. 1988**	Dec. 1987**	Net Change From Nov. 1988	Net Change From Dec. 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	59.1	58.5	58.4	+ 0.6	+ 0.7
MANUFACTURING	10.8	11.0	11.1	- 0.2	- 0.3
Durable Goods	2.4	2.5	2.6	- 0.1	- 0.2
Stone, Clay & Glass Prod.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
Other Durable Goods	2.2	2.3	2.4	- 0.1	- 0.2
Nondurable Goods	8.4	8.5	8.5	- 0.1	- 0.1
Food & Kindred Products	0.2	0.2	0.3	0	- 0.1
Chemical & Pet. Products	7.7	7.8	7.6	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Other Nondurable Goods	0.5	0.5	0.6	0	- 0.1
MINING	1.0	0.9	0.9	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
CONSTRUCTION	4.1	4.0	3.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	4.0	3.9	3.9	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	14.5	14.2	14.7	+ 0.3	- 0.2
Wholesale Trade	2.9	2.9	2.9	0	0
Retail Trade	11.6	11.3	11.8	+ 0.3	- 0.2
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	2.6	2.4	2.2	+ 0.2	+ 0.4
Auto Dlrs. & Serv. Sta.	1.3	1.3	1.2	0	+ 0.1
Eating & Drinking Places	3.6	3.5	4.0	+ 0.1	- 0.4
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	2.7	2.7	2.7	0	0
Banking	1.1	1.1	1.0	0	+ 0.1
SERVICES	11.8	11.6	11.3	+ 0.2	+ 0.5
Hotels & Other Lodg. Places	0.6	0.5	0.6	+ 0.1	0
Personal Services	0.5	0.4	0.5	+ 0.1	0
GOVERNMENT	10.2	10.2	10.0	0	+ 0.2
Federal	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
State and Local	9.6	9.6	9.4	0	+ 0.2
State	3.1	3.1	3.6	0	- 0.5
Local	6.5	6.5	5.8	0	+ 0.7

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Lake Charles LMA was estimated at 59,100, an increase of 600 workers from last month's estimate and 700 workers above the December 1987 figure.

Manufacturing declined by 200 from the previous month due to a loss of workers in the other durable goods and chemical and petroleum products sectors. Mining increased by 100 workers in December due to firmer oil prices. Construction, and transportation and public utilities sectors rose by 100 workers from the previous month. Wholesale and retail trade was up by 300 due to seasonal hiring. Services increased by 200 in December, with hotels and other lodging places and personal services contributing to the increase.

The remaining segments of the economy showed little or no change from last month.

The unemployment rate should increase slightly next month due to inclement weather and the end of the holiday season.

MONROE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Dec. 1988*	Nov. 1988**	Dec. 1987**	Net Change From Nov. 1988	Net Change From Dec. 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	54.7	54.8	54.4	- 0.1	+ 0.3
MANUFACTURING	7.4	7.3	7.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Durable Goods	2.2	2.1	2.2	+ 0.1	0
Lumber & Wood Products	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
Other Durable Goods	2.0	1.9	2.0	+ 0.1	0
Nondurable Goods	5.2	5.2	5.0	0	+ 0.2
Food & Kindred Products	0.7	0.7	0.7	0	0
Chemical & Allied Products	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	4.0	4.0	3.8	0	+ 0.2
MINING	0.3	0.4	0.4	- 0.1	- 0.1
CONSTRUCTION	2.4	2.5	2.5	- 0.1	- 0.1
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	2.6	2.7	2.6	- 0.1	0
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	14.6	14.3	14.9	+ 0.3	- 0.3
Wholesale Trade	3.6	3.7	3.8	- 0.1	- 0.2
Retail Trade	11.0	10.6	11.1	+ 0.4	- 0.1
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	2.9	2.6	2.9	+ 0.3	0
Auto Dealers & Serv. Sta.	1.0	1.0	1.0	0	0
Eating & Drinking Places	3.4	3.4	3.6	0	- 0.2
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	4.5	4.5	4.6	0	- 0.1
Banking	1.0	1.0	1.1	0	- 0.1
SERVICES	11.7	11.9	11.4	- 0.2	+ 0.3
Hotels & Other Lodg. Places	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
Personal Services	0.6	0.6	0.5	0	+ 0.1
Health Services	5.2	5.3	5.1	- 0.1	+ 0.1
GOVERNMENT	11.2	11.2	10.8	0	+ 0.4
Federal	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
State and Local	10.6	10.6	10.2	0	+ 0.4
State	5.0	5.0	4.9	0	+ 0.1
Local	5.6	5.6	5.3	0	+ 0.3

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment, estimated at 54,700 during December, was down 100 from the November estimate of 54,800, but was 300 above the December 1987 estimate of 54,400.

Manufacturing experienced a minimal gain as it rose to 7,400 over the month. Over the year, manufacturing rose by 200 workers.

Mining, construction, and transportation and public utilities each had minimal losses of 100 workers. Services was down by 200 workers. As anticipated, wholesale and retail trade were up as the holiday season reached its peak. All other segments were unchanged over the month.

Employment can be expected to decline with the end of the holiday season and in anticipation of adverse weather conditions. Unemployment will remain high.

NEW ORLEANS AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Dec. 1988*	Nov. 1988**	Dec. 1987**	Net Change From Nov. 1988	Net Change From Dec. 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	520.0	519.7	512.3	+ 0.3	+ 7.7
MANUFACTURING	43.5	43.1	42.9	+ 0.4	+ 0.6
Durable Goods	22.5	22.2	21.2	+ 0.3	+ 1.3
Lumber and Wood Products	0.4	0.4	0.5	0	- 0.1
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	1.3	1.3	1.2	0	+ 0.1
Fabricated Metal Products	2.1	2.1	2.2	0	- 0.1
Machinery	2.7	2.7	2.7	0	0
Transportation Equipment	14.0	13.7	12.6	+ 0.3	+ 1.4
Ship & Boatbuilding & Repairing	10.4	10.1	8.9	+ 0.3	+ 1.5
Other Durable Goods	2.0	2.0	2.0	0	0
Nondurable Goods	21.0	20.9	21.7	+ 0.1	- 0.7
Food & Kindred Products	6.1	6.0	6.4	+ 0.1	- 0.3
Apparel & Other Textile Products	1.6	1.6	1.8	0	- 0.2
Paper & Allied Products	0.7	0.7	0.8	0	- 0.1
Printing & Publishing	3.7	3.7	3.8	0	- 0.1
Chemicals and Allied Products	4.0	4.0	3.9	0	+ 0.1
Petroleum & Coal Products	4.5	4.5	4.6	0	- 0.1
Other Nondurable Goods	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0
MINING	15.5	15.4	14.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.8
Oil & Gas Extraction	14.6	14.5	13.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.9
CONSTRUCTION	22.2	23.9	21.8	- 1.7	+ 0.4
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	44.9	44.6	43.4	+ 0.3	+ 1.5
Railroad Transportation	1.5	1.5	1.5	0	0
Water Transportation	13.4	13.2	12.3	+ 0.2	+ 1.1
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	136.4	134.6	136.4	+ 1.8	0
Wholesale Trade	32.3	32.1	31.8	+ 0.2	+ 0.5
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	18.6	18.5	18.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.5
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	13.7	13.6	13.7	+ 0.1	0
Retail Trade	104.1	102.5	104.6	+ 1.6	- 0.5
General Merchandise	14.9	14.2	13.8	+ 0.7	+ 1.1
Food Stores	19.5	19.4	19.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.4
Eating & Drinking Places	34.5	34.3	35.3	+ 0.2	- 0.8
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	33.9	33.8	34.1	+ 0.1	- 0.2
Banking	7.4	7.3	7.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
SERVICES	137.7	138.3	133.9	- 0.6	+ 3.8
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	13.3	13.3	12.9	- 0.2	+ 0.2
Health Services	37.2	37.0	36.0	+ 0.2	+ 1.2
GOVERNMENT	85.9	86.0	85.1	- 0.1	+ 0.8
Federal	16.1	16.0	16.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
State and Local	69.8	70.0	69.1	- 0.2	+ 0.7
State	18.3	18.7	19.0	- 0.4	- 0.7
Local	51.5	51.3	50.1	+ 0.2	+ 1.4

NEW ORLEANS AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Dec. '88*	Nov. '88**	Dec. '87**	Dec. '88*	Nov. '88**	Dec. '87**	Dec. '88*	Nov. '88**	Dec. '87**
All MANUFACTURING	$421.74	$445.94	$432.14	39.9	41.1	41.0	$10.57	$10.85	$10.54
Durable Goods	355.32	380.72	395.50	37.8	39.7	40.9	9.40	9.59	9.67
Stone, Clay, & Glass Pdts.	234.09	244.89	261.90	27.0	27.0	30.0	8.67	9.07	8.73
Fabricated Metal Products	372.38	424.27	449.16	37.5	40.6	42.9	9.93	10.45	10.47
Ship & Boatbuilding and Repairing	341.89	361.00	366.62	38.2	40.2	40.2	8.95	8.98	9.12
Nondurable Goods	495.01	517.52	467.72	42.2	42.7	41.1	11.73	12.12	11.38
Food & Kindred Products	329.55	319.77	312.68	39.0	37.4	37.9	8.45	8.55	8.25
Apparel & Other Textile Pdts.	194.81	181.72	187.78	38.5	33.1	35.7	5.06	5.49	5.26
Paper & Allied Products	415.63	399.36	472.26	44.5	47.6	47.8	9.34	8.39	9.88
Printing & Publishing	389.05	374.36	376.94	40.4	37.7	40.1	9.63	9.93	9.40
Chemicals & Allied Pdts.	724.61	768.26	711.97	44.4	47.6	43.2	16.32	16.14	16.48

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 30,100 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

NEW ORLEANS AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the New Orleans LMA in December increased to 520,000, a level 300 above November. The largest increases were seasonal in nature. Over the year, nonagricultural employment gained 7,700 workers, with increases in all industry divisions except finance, insurance, and real estate.

Manufacturing employment totaled 43,500, up 400 over the previous month. Ship and boat building and repairing was mainly responsible for the increase due to more contracts and orders. Food and kindred products experienced an increase because of seasonal factors.

Mining edged up with gains primarily in the oil and gas extraction segment. The substantial drop in construction was attributed to the completion of large projects and normal seasonal downward movement. Transportation and public utilities showed increases mostly due to the rise in local port activity. Retail trade experienced a significant seasonal gain as shopping for the holiday season neared its peak. Finance, insurance, and real estate inched up. Services made downward adjustments largely in private educational services. Minor increases in federal and local governments were offset by larger decreases in state government.

Production workers in the area earned an average of $421.74 per week in December, down $24.20 from last month's average. Average weekly hours were 39.9, down 1.2 hours from the previous month. Average hourly earnings were $10.57, down $0.28 from the previous month. Compared to one year ago, weekly earnings are down $10.40 in manufacturing.

Estimated unemployment in December remained unchanged from the previous month at a level of 52,100. Joblessness held steady at 8.7 percent when compared with November and moved up from 8.1 percent in December of last year. Recipients of regular unemployment insurance benefits totaled 8,516.

Nonagricultural employment in the coming months is expected to show an overall decrease. Retail trade will make normal downward adjustments as the holiday season closes. Construction is expected to display a seasonal downturn. Unemployment will probably exhibit an overall increase.

SHREVEPORT AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Dec. 1988*	Nov. 1988**	Dec. 1987**	Net Change From Nov. 1988	Net Change From Dec. 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	130.7	132.2	133.3	- 1.5	- 2.6
MANUFACTURING	16.9	17.0	17.2	- 0.1	- 0.3
Durable Goods	12.1	12.1	12.4	0	- 0.3
Lumber and Wood Products	0.4	0.4	0.5	0	- 0.1
Metals and Machinery	6.9	6.9	7.2	0	- 0.3
Primary and Fabricated Metals	1.8	1.7	1.4	+ 0.1	+ 0.4
Machinery, Inc. Electrical	5.1	5.2	5.8	- 0.1	- 0.7
Other Durable Goods	4.8	4.8	4.7	0	+ 0.1
Nondurable Good	4.8	4.9	4.8	- 0.1	0
Food & Kindred Products	0.6	0.6	0.5	0	+ 0.1
Printing & Publishing	1.3	1.3	1.3	0	0
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.7	0.8	0.8	- 0.1	- 0.1
Other Nondurable Goods	2.2	2.2	2.2	0	0
MINING	2.7	2.8	3.2	- 0.1	- 0.5
CONSTRUCTION	7.5	7.7	7.0	- 0.2	+ 0.5
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	8.0	8.0	8.1	0	- 0.1
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	31.8	32.0	33.3	- 0.2	- 1.5
Wholesale Trade	7.5	7.6	8.0	- 0.1	- 0.5
Retail Trade	24.3	24.4	25.3	- 0.1	- 1.0
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	6.9	6.9	7.4	0	- 0.5
SERVICES	31.7	32.4	31.7	- 0.7	0
GOVERNMENT	25.2	25.4	25.4	- 0.2	- 0.2
Federal	4.7	4.7	4.8	0	- 0.1
State and Local	20.5	20.7	20.6	- 0.2	- 0.1
State	6.1	6.1	6.0	0	+ 0.1
Local	14.4	14.6	14.6	- 0.2	- 0.2

SHREVEPORT AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Dec. '88*	Nov. '88**	Dec. '87**	Dec. '88*	Nov. '88**	Dec. '87**	Dec. '88*	Nov. '88**	Dec. '87**
All MANUFACTURING	$463.57	$514.96	$454.21	40.7	42.7	39.6	$11.39	$12.06	$11.47
Lumber and Wood Products	318.14	319.02	213.86	36.4	37.4	32.8	8.74	8.53	6.52
Metals and Machinery	480.82	463.86	478.25	43.2	42.4	41.3	11.13	10.94	11.58
Food and Kindred Products	338.02	343.12	303.75	42.2	42.1	40.5	8.01	8.15	7.50
Printing and Publishing	329.13	363.28	335.22	34.5	38.2	35.7	9.54	9.51	9.39
Petroleum and Coal Products	568.96	574.98	557.06	44.8	44.4	46.0	12.70	12.95	12.11

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 12,100 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

SHREVEPORT AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Shreveport LMA, estimated at 130,700, fell below the November estimate of 132,200 and showed a moderate reduction from the year-ago total of 133,300. The most significant employment change from November to December was caused by a seasonal decline in the services sector with job losses in the amusement and recreation services industry.

The employment total in manufacturing declined to 16,900, down slightly from the November estimate of 17,000 and the year-ago total of 17,200. Job losses between November and December were equally divided in manufacturing with reduced production in both machinery and petroleum and coal products. There was a small increase in primary and fabricated metals to help offset this loss.

Nonmanufacturing employment estimated at 113,800, dropped from the November level of 115,200. Services employment dropped to 31,700, down from the November estimate of 32,400. This employment decline was caused primarily by the closing of the racing season. Additional job losses occurred in construction, government, trade and mining.

In manufacturing, an estimated 12,100 production workers had average weekly earnings of $463.57, down $51.39 from the November average, and up $9.36 from the December 1987 average. Average weekly hours of 40.7 were 2.0 hours less than last month but 1.1 hours more than one year ago. Average hourly earnings of $11.39 were down from $12.06 last month and $11.47 one year ago.

The civilian labor force, estimated at 161,900, included 145,800 employed and 16,100 unemployed, giving an unemployment rate of 10.0 percent. The revised November rate was 9.4 percent, while December 1987 was 9.1 percent.

Changes during the next two months are expected to be minimal. Total nonagricultural employment may dip slightly below the present estimate while total unemployment will show a small gain.